'"the," and "said" are intended to mean that there are one or more of the elements. The terms "comprising,""including," and "having" are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements other than the listed elements.

[0105] In view of the above, it will be seen that the several objects of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results attained.

[0106] As various changes could be made in the above constructions, products, and methods without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of granting an application program access to a resource on a computing system, said method comprising:

receiving a request from an application program for access to a resource identified in the request;

determining an application identifier for the application program;

identifying a privilege from a manifest as a function of the determined application identifier and the identified resource, said manifest indicating the privilege that the application program has for accessing the identified resource; and

granting the application program access to the identified resource according to the identified privilege.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the privilege from the manifest comprises identifying the privilege from the manifest, said manifest being associated with the application program.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the privilege from the manifest comprises identifying the privilege from the manifest, said manifest being associated with an operating system executing on the computing system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the application identifier for the application program comprises determining the application identifier associated with each of a plurality of files and system settings, said plurality of files and system settings representing the application program.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein granting the application program access to the identified resource comprises granting the application program read-only access to the identified resource.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein granting the application program access to the identified resource comprises denying the application program access to the identified resource.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein granting the application program access to the identified resource comprises generating a copy of the resource for use by the application program.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the application program is to be installed on the computing system, and further comprising installing the application program on the computing system using the generated copy of the resource.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the application program is to be installed on the computing system, and further comprising installing the application program on the computing system including applying a system setting to the computing system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the computing system maintains a record of the applied system setting.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the application identifier for the application program comprises determining the application identifier for a group of application programs.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request from the application program for access to the resource identified in the request comprises receiving the request from the application program for access to one or more of the following: a file, a directory, a named object, and a system setting.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein an operating system associated with the computing system performs said receiving, said determining, said identifying, and said granting.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the manifest from an installation medium associated with the application program, wherein the manifest represents a list of files and resource changes associated with the application program.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the manifest from an installation medium associated with the application program, wherein the manifest represents a list of files and resource changes associated with an operating system executing on the computing system.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the manifest based on one or more actions of the application program after installation of the application program.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more computer-readable media have computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

18. One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable components for granting an application program access to a resource, said components comprising:

an interface module to receive a request from an application program for access to a resource identified in the request;

an identity module to determine an application identifier for the application program to distinguish the application program and components thereof from other application programs;

a filter module to identify a privilege from a manifest as a function of the application identifier determined by the identity module and the identified resource, said manifest indicating the privilege that the application program has for accessing the identified resource; and

an access control module to grant the application program access to the identified resource according to the privilege identified by the filter module.

19. The computer-readable media of claim 18, wherein the identity module determines the application identifier for a group of application programs.

20. The computer-readable media of claim 18, wherein the interface module receives the request from the application program for access to one or more of the following: a file, a directory, a named object, and a system setting.

21. The computer-readable media of claim 18, further comprising a configuration module to receive the manifest from an installation medium associated with the application program.